2. In addition, there are schemes for providing various facilities to older persons and persons with disabilities as well as rehabilitation of victims of substance (Drugs) abuse.

Post-matric scholarships

2965. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra for assistance under the post matric scholarships for the OBC have been pending in his Ministry since the year 2004;

(b) whether he is aware of the hardship caused to the students by this delay; and

(c) by when all these pending claims would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for grant of Rs. 200 crores under the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students for the year 2004-05. However, because of non-receipt of utilization certificate in the prescribed proforma for Rs. 4.39 crore released in 2001-02 along with details of corresponding physical and financial achievements as well as physical target for 2004-05, no funds could be released to the State Government of Maharashtra during the year. Proposals of State Governments for central assistance under the Scheme are received and considered on year-to-year basis, depending upon availability of funds. A total assistance of Rs. 43.07 crore has been released during the period 2005-06 to 2008-09 to the State Government of Maharashtra. As regards the year 2009-10, complete proposal is awaited from the State Government.

Funds for scholarships

†2966. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Central Government would provide 50 per cent amount to States to enhance their limited financial provisions since the rates of State scholarships up to secondary level are very low;

(b) whether, under post-matric scholarship scheme, annual income limit for students of Scheduled Castes has been fixed to be Rs. 1 lakh by the Central Government, leaving many students of middle income group deprived of scholarships;

(c) the measures taken therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Under the scheme of "Pre-matric scholarship for children of those

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.